

# **Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors of District 16 of the American Contract Bridge League**

**September 1, 2018**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of District 16 of the American Contract Bridge League was held in the Canyon Creek Conference Room of the Richardson Renaissance Hotel in Richardson TX on September 1, 2018. In attendance were:

## **Executive Officers**

Rebecca Brown	President
Nancy Strohmer	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President
David Pearlman	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President
Dan Leightman	Executive Treasurer
Tomi Storey	Executive Secretary

## **Voting Board Members (Unit Representatives)**

Rebecca Brown	Unit 172	
Kathleen Malcolmson	Unit 174	
Jim Bauer	Unit 176	
Steve Shirey	Unit 183	
Dave Ticen	Unit 187	
Larry Hettick	Unit 204	(alternate for Neal Perlman)
Larry Davis	Unit 207	
Jo Smith	Unit 224	
Gay Roach	Unit 225	
Lynn Sykes	Unit 233	
Sherry McHarg	Unit 254	
Marsha May	Unit 353	

## **Non-Voting Board Members**

### **Representing District 16 on ACBL Board of Directors**

Paul Cuneo, Director

### **Committee Chairs**

Scott Humphrey	Awards
Nancy Strohmer	Charity
Jim Thurtell	Disciplinary
Laura Delfeld	Intermediate/Novice
Kim Brinkman	Membership
Tomi Storey	Tournaments

## **Standing Positions**

BJ Sanders	GNT Coordinator
Ira Hessel	Scorecard Editor

## **Visitors**

Sandy Potts	Unit 207
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## **Call to Order and Quorum**

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM and a quorum was confirmed. President Brown again asked that everyone be recognized and stand to speak and stated these will be ground rules going forward.

## **Approval of Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Nancy Strohmer and seconded by Larry Davis to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Written reports also were received from the Charity chair, the treasurer, and the GNT Chair as part of the consent agenda.

## **Charity Report**

Mrs. Strohmer offered some additional information to her written charity report. Charity games will be held October 18, 19, 22, and 23, 2018. She suggested we try a different method to select charities this year. The action she requests was we decide between charities being selected by 1. The District board, 2. The unit boards (or their designee), and 3. The club managers. Two of these games are grass roots funds and the other two have funds in question. All these monies as raised go to the ACBL and those boards.

Mr. Thurtell questioned that if each club decides their one, funds are seriously diluted, since smaller clubs don't take in much money. Ms. Delfeld expressed a view from the perspective of a bridge director that knowing ahead of time what charity is being supported adds to the interest from the players, so Unit decisions would be preferable.

Ms. Brinkman believes that dividing the monies divides the district. Mrs. McHarg stated that the ACBL had agreed several years ago under the auspices of Gary Mitchell that charity funds raised in Mexico remain in Mexico. She made a motion, seconded by Ms. Malcolmson, that this remain in effect. Ms. Malcolmson made a friendly amendment

that this motion includes all of the District to make the decision at the unit level.  
Motion carried.

### **Treasurer's Report and Balance Report**

Dan Leightman submitted the treasurer's report and the balance sheet as part of the consent agenda. A question was asked and answered as to the line item on REACH. No other questions were raised and the report was approved unanimously.

### **ACBL D16 Board of Directors Report**

Mr. Cuneo gave a quick summary of actions at the Summer NABC in Atlanta.

A workshop was held by Strategic Review, a committee headed by Mr. Cuneo, around the themes that came out of analysis – strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats of the League. The morning was devoted to promoting the game of bridge, which is part of our mission, since the ACBL has not donated notable amounts to promotion of the game itself. We spend money promoting tournaments, lessons, and membership, but little on the actual game. The Board has decided to remedy this. So many members learned at home or played in college and those players are coming back. The least expensive way to promote the game is through Facebook and social media. Mr. Cuneo has recruited 10 members from the I/N newsletter group to review the ACBL FB page to share it with their friends and see how many more members we can get interested. After the meeting he will be contacting each unit to see about setting up Unit FB pages, as well as club managers to set up FB pages at that level. He has volunteered to do a D16 initiative and see how we do and hopefully get the other 24 districts to follow. An initiative from Headquarters is expected at the board meeting in Honolulu.

One of the first motions Mr. Cuneo co-sponsored was to impose term limits on the ACBL Board of Directors. This passed in Atlanta. Current district representatives are grandfathered, but new members are limited to 4 terms, or 12 years maximum.

The search for a new Executive Director is still ongoing, and it is hoped that a decision will be reached before the end of the year.

Dr. Hessel stated that he is not sure that Facebook is that best method, since current ACBL members are not that involved. Mr. Davis said that this was trying to reach people not already in the ACBL. Ms. Malcolmson said that we are trying to get people not in bridge and agrees that social media is the way to go. David Pearlman interacts with a lot of young people and he stated that FB alone would not be the best way to go. A number of social platforms are more popular now with that younger demographic, such as Snapchat, Twitter and Instagram, so all should be considered.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Scorecard**

President Brown stated that Jim Bauer has agreed to be the new Chair of the Scorecard Committee and she thanked him for accepting the position. Donna Compton relinquished her position and Mr. Bauer is now in the process of selecting his committee. President Brown asked that each of us to participate when asked and give him our best efforts.

At the last meeting, the Board voted to reconsider its action from the January 2018 meeting at which time we had voted to implement a 2-year trial of a new delivery method for the Scorecard. At the July meeting, after a very long discussion, a vote was taken to reconsider that method in the light of additional information coming to light and further information needed. Today this motion to reconsider is due. President Brown asked Mr. Bauer as Scorecard Chair if he was ready to move forward on this issue. She then turned the floor over to Mr. Bauer. His recommendation was to not move forward today. This is a long-term issue and at this point there is no actionable data to make a decision. Mr. Bauer's plan is to take this position until the end of President Brown's term. Some other ideas have come up. Laura Delfeld has agreed to work locally with Dr. Hessel on increasing revenue, since our options are to either increase revenue or decrease costs. Advertising or corporate sponsorships are possibilities, but we must be careful not to jeopardize our 3<sup>rd</sup> class mailing status. A motion was made to defer the motion to reconsider and seconded by Mr. Shirey. The motion carried.

### **Regionals at Sea**

At the last meeting, we denied the ACBL's request to have the January 2019 Regional at Sea. It will now be March 17-24, 2019 out of Galveston. We also have approved a request for March 8-15, 2020.

### **NABC Surcharges**

President Brown stated that in the last meeting, Betty Starzec suggested the idea that the surcharges we raise during our regionals for any upcoming Texas NABC's be capped. In the past, we have accumulated any monies raised and gave them to the unit selected to run the NABC within our district. As some history, in 2006, Dallas took over an NABC when another district backed up and received any monies collected. In 2009, Houston had its scheduled NABC and had a much smaller amount from the District. In 2014, Dallas again had an NABC and received roughly \$21,000. Mr. Leightman said in his opinion, districts receiving last minute NABC assignments are 100-year events and setting a cap was not needed. He believes this is not needed. At this time, we have in excess of \$18,000 and should be on track for \$21,000 again before Austin. Mrs. Storey stated that having chaired the 2014 NABC in Dallas and having been the recipient of these dollars, she believes that a cap is an excellent idea, with perhaps a \$25,000 limit. In this way, there are always funds available. She also said Districts taking over for another districts is much more common than we realize. At the time that Austin was offered an NABC, there were no NABC's scheduled in D16 and without the hotel itself approaching the ACBL, monies would still be accumulating. Ms. Roach offered that there is no reason to set a cap when none is needed, since we have no idea how

inflation will affect the figures. There being no motion called for, no changes will be made at this time.

### **Election of D16 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate**

President Brown reminded us that at the last meeting, it was announced that Tomi Storey would move from 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate to 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate to the Board of Directors for D16, effective January 1, 2019. This leaves a vacancy for 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate. After corresponding with the ACBL, the procedure is as follows: the D16 Board can nominate and elect someone to fill that position, also effective January 1, 2019. President Brown said at this time she would to nominate Nancy Strohmer, seconded by Mrs. Story. Jim Thurtell was nominated by Mr. Bauer. Failing a second, Nancy Strohmer was elected by acclamation.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Appointment of Board of Governor Vacancy**

President Brown received a letter from the wife of DeWitt Hudson, informing her that Mr. Hudson, after serving D16 on the Board of Governors for many years, would be resigning his duties due to health issues. President Brown notified Richard Popper, Chairman of the BOG. There is one year left on his term and after that year, the position will be filled in a district-wide election. It is the responsibility of the president of the district to fill this for the remaining year and President Brown has appointed Robert Morris to complete this term.

#### **2021 Austin NABC Chair**

President Brown recognized guest Sandy Potts, President of Unit 207 in Austin. Ms. Potts informed the group that the Unit has nominated BJ Sanders as Chair of the 2021 Austin NABC. This nomination must be ratified by the District. A motion was made and seconded that Mrs. Sanders be approved by the Board and it was passed unanimously.

In a secondary issue, it was questioned as to who may make a motion. Per Mr. Pearlman, the bylaws are silent as to who may make a motion, but not as to who may vote on said motions.

#### **Request from Unit 174 for ABTA Function Funds**

Betty Starzec has invited all ABTA teachers and District 16 teachers to a party at her home to meet Barbara Seagram on November 30, 2019. Ms. Malcolmson has requested payment from the District to subsidize this function in the amount of \$150. A motion was made and seconded, passing unanimously.

## **2019 San Miguel Regional**

At our last meeting, mediation was completed between Units 173 and 254. Unit 254 is now requesting that the sanction and allocation of the 2019 San Miguel Regional be turned over to them. Sherry McHarg, on behalf of her Unit 254, and Jorge Rosen and Guillermo Poplawsky, on behalf of Unit 173, have both submitted requests and presented position papers to the Executive Committee. President Brown requested that Mrs. Storey present the position of the Tournament Chair, also representing Scott Humphrey's as Tournament Coordinator, in charge of sanctions and scheduling. Ms. Storey stated that as a District, we have a timeline in effect for tournaments and for regionals, that time line is 9 months. Because of this long-used practice, 2019 will stay with Unit 173, but Unit 254 is certainly encouraged to apply for 2020 or other future dates. Unit 173 already has a sanction, a contract and hotel space.

Mrs. McHarg spoke to the issue. The tournament has been held in the San Miguel Conference Center for the last 5 or 6 years. Currently Unit 173 brings in all boards, bridgemates, materials and supplies and move into the conference center. While she stated that she appreciated Mrs. Storey's comments, she also stated that no promotion has been done as yet and Unit 254 would have no problem taking over the contract and having the sanction transferred. President Brown reiterated that she was welcome to apply for consideration in 2020 and Mrs. McHarg said she would do so.

Jo Smith also questioned if this policy came from the ACBL or the District. Mrs. Storey said that was a district policy. This rule is occasionally relaxed for sectionals, but not regionals. Mrs. Smith asked again if we could not consider changing the policy. Mrs. Storey said this could start a precedent of one Unit asking for another's sanction and it was not a precedent that the Tournament Committee wanted to set. Mrs. McHarg stated that there was a threat that Unit 173 would take the tournament out of San Miguel. She said that it is a historic thing that Mexico City was bridge in Mexico for many years and she had been told personally that if they fought the allocation, Unit 173 would move the tournament out of San Miguel. President Brown said that since there was no one from Unit 173 to affirm or deny, she would stop this conversation, but if Unit 254 did indeed pursue a future date, the information from both Units would be circulated to the entire D16 Board. Mrs. Storey asked Mrs. McHarg that she do so quickly. President Brown said she would submit the application and information to the entire board when received.

## **Unit Website Updates**

Mrs. Storey requested all Unit representatives to furnish her with the name of Unit presidents, including phone and email addresses, so that some information that is currently sent through the representatives can go directly to the Unit presidents. Mr. Cuneo offered that he receives that monthly from the ACBL and he can send it.

Mrs. Storey said that our new webmaster, John Magyari, is working on updating the website. Photos and contact information for each representative and standing committee member need serious updating. She requested that each rep and committee member submit new pictures. She also requested that each member update the contact

information they wish to share. All contacts must have either a phone or an email, but preferably both. There are currently 2 units without representation: Howie Huynh from Unit 197 (Lubbock) has completed his doctorate and returned to Toronto, and Unit 209 (Greater Permian Basin) has been without a representative for several years.

### **Additional Old Business**

Dr. Hessel, who had to leave the meeting for a time, took the floor at the end of the meeting on several subjects, the first being the Scorecard. He stated that it has always been a consensus that the Scorecard is a bargain. It cost \$3.60 a person per year for a subscription. It has been looked at for 25 years and it is still a bargain. He also spoke about conditions of contests that are framed in the by-laws, but not followed. His last issue was what is happening to the smaller units. They are being squeezed out by the larger units because people no longer like to travel. He asked that considerations be made to smaller areas so they can survive.

### **Action Item Review and Meeting Critique**

President Brown thanked Unit 176 and Tournament Co-Chairs Tomi Storey and Ed Yetter for an excellent tournament and a well-run event.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned at 9:40 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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Tomi Storey  
Executive Secretary, ACBL District 16